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The Curator wishes once more to thank Miss Haynes, Miss Lorenz, and Dr. Evans for the unfailing courtesy, generous aid, and vital inspiration which they have given upon every appeal for help.

GEO. H. CONKLIN, *Curator*.

SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN, DEC. 15, 1916.

Report of the Lichen Department, 1916

The year has been one of unusual activity in the Lichen Department. In the early part of the year we received the duplicates of Dr. Hasse's large collections, a report upon which is still in the making.

Thus far, nearly half of the material has been gone over; of course, some of the species are well represented, others not so well. From those of which at least ten good duplicates could be found, 150 specimens have already been set aside. These, as you all know, have been offered for sale, and are being distributed in fascicles of twenty-five each. The first fascicle has been already distributed and the second will be in December. During the coming year we plan to distribute a fascicle every three months; that is, one in March, one in June, one in September, and one in December. Members may be pleased to learn that two of these sets can still be had. It is urged that those desiring a set order at once.

No attempt has yet been made to put into the herbarium a representation of all these specimens. This will only be done gradually, about as fast as they are offered to subscribers. This year, therefore, but 50 specimens (that is, the first two fascicles) have been added to the herbarium.

We have also been remembered by Mr. N. L. T. Nelson, who has sent us specimens collected near Gainesville, Florida, and by Mr. P. G. M. Rhodes, who has sent specimens from England. Altogether 87 specimens have been added to the herbarium, which now numbers 3160 specimens.

It is to be hoped that during the coming year more activity will be shown in the work by our members; we should have at least a dozen contributors. The same might be said regarding our exchange department. During the past year, Mr. Severin Rapp, Mr. Latham, and Mr. Rhodes each did his part. What is the matter with our other lichen friends? Let us all take a little more interest in this work, contribute to the herbarium, and not be afraid occasionally to offer a specimen or two to others.

CHARLES C. PLITT, *Curator*.

BALTIMORE, MD., DEC. 1, 1916.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Editorial.—The New Year is customarily the time to drop bad habits, make general changes in policy, and to express the hope to do better the coming year than we did last year. The Editor is somewhat immune to this New Year's contagion but in conformity with the general practice the present occasion has

been taken to emphasize what has been developing as an idea with a few of us this last year or more.

It is believed that the department of Miscellaneous Notes might be used to great mutual advantage by our readers as a general place for short notes as to the occurrence, distribution, or habitat of species; methods of collection, study, or preservation of specimens; short notes on current literature; personal notes; discussions; in fact anything which will make the BRYOLOGIST of more general use to our readers. The Associate Editors will be asked to contribute short notes on the particular groups of plants with which they are more particularly dealing, and to report on the literature relating to these groups, and, in this connection the Editor wishes particularly to thank Dr. Holzinger and Mr. Chamberlain for their continuous contributions of notes and reviews during the last year. The BRYOLOGIST is now the only magazine in the world devoted to the mosses, hepatics, and lichens, the valued *Revue Bryologique* having (at least temporarily) suspended publication, so let us make our journal worthy of the honor of its position.

The Editor proposes during the coming year to ask more of the Associate Editors in the way of looking over the manuscripts before publication. During the last year this has been in many cases hardly possible owing to the scarcity of suitable manuscripts and the consequent rush in many cases in getting them to the printer, but it is becoming more and more apparent that an examination of certain papers by an associate editor more familiar with the particular subject treated would result in valuable suggestions, or even corrections. We would ask of our readers to ponder carefully the article in this issue by Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith and then decide with us to help the good work along and make the BRYOLOGIST better and bigger and more generally useful than ever before.

Safety-razor Blades for Hand-sectioning.—Several times during the last two or three years we have noted references to the use of the safety-razor blade for cutting hand-sections. Having had occasion recently to make a series of cross-sections of leaves, the safety-razor blade has been tried and can be highly recommended for this purpose. We used the Gem Damaskeene Blades, held by means of the handle which is used to hold the blades when stropping them. This stropping-handle consists of a metal clip into which the blade is slipped and then the base of the clip is pushed into the end of a hollow metal handle. There is thus furnished a very sharp and very thin cutting blade of uniform thickness, held quite securely in a convenient handle and costing but little. The handle costs fifteen cents and the blades cost five cents apiece in packages of seven.

In using the blade we obtained the best results by slicing elder pith crosswise into disks about as thick as a five-cent piece. Then, holding the leaf between two disks, or two pieces of such disks, between the thumb and first finger of the left hand, the finger being on the outer side and a little lower than the thumb, the flat blade of the razor was rested on the top of the finger and then drawn towards the thumb, cutting through the pith and enclosed leaf. By pressing down on the razor or by very slightly lowering the finger the successive slices

may be gauged quite accurately and surprisingly thin sections may be obtained. It is much better to use the pith in such a manner that the cuts through it will be made with the grain (longitudinally), hence the instructions above to prepare the pith by cutting it into disks, crosswise. It is best to dip the blade in water before starting to cut a series of sections, as the sections will then remain on the damp surface of the blade until you are through with the operation. If the blade is used dry the sections will likely be blown away by your breath, unless, as with some workers, steadiness of hands is attained by holding the breath during such an operation. We have had no difficulty in getting sections of *Catharinaea* of a minimum of two cells in thickness by this method, although at this minimum thickness most of the lamellae were more or less torn.

O. E. J.

SULLIVANT MOSS SOCIETY NOTES

The following new members have been added to our rolls since the last note was published in the September, 1916, number:

Mr. A. T. Beals.....	71 West 23rd St., New York City
Mr. E. R. Grose.....	Glenville, W. Va.
Mrs. J. Kincaid.....	Russiaville, Ind.
Miss Myrtle H. Lewis.....	Rockwell Ave., Naugatuck, Conn.
Mrs. Frank E. Lowe.....	24 Brattle St., Worcester, Mass.
Mr. Ralph S. Nanz....	Dept. Plant Pathology, New York State College, Ithaca, N. Y.
Mrs. Mary Adam Noble.....	Inverness, Florida
Dr. Wm. H. Wiegman.....	436 East 5th St., New York City

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

Offerings—*To members only.* Return postage should accompany the request.

Mr. A. J. Beals, 71 West 23d Street, New York City.—*Fissidens obtusifolius* Wils., collected by Mr. Beals on limestone rocks of the Housatonic River, Falls Village, Connecticut, Sept., 1916, in fine fruit.

Dr. Albert C. Herre, State Normal School, Bellingham, Washington.—*Cyphelium inquinans* (Sm.) Trevis.

Mr. Charles C. Plitt, 3933 Lowndes Ave., Baltimore, Maryland.—*Alectoria jubata* (L.) Nyl., collected in Switzerland by Mr. P. G. M. Rhodes.